

Republican partisan Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation in the hands of one political party. To be "fair and balanced" they should also be forced to show Michael Moore's movie the next night. Yeah, right!

Republican partisan chairmen at Sinclair use the public airwaves free of charge, and are obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large monopolistic companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.